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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 19, 1951 SS-98

Large Wheat Acreage Sown

Wheat acreage sown last fall was one-sixth above average, and conditions at planting mostly were favorable to ideal for germination and growth.

More Moisture Needed in Some Areas

Topsoils, January 1, were very dry in the central and southern Great Plains area, but subsoil moisture was satisfactory and wheat stands were good though poorly rooted. Hoped for rain and snow cover would improve the condition in this important area. Condition appeared satisfactory in most other wheat areas.

More Wheat on Farms Than Last Year

Wheat stocks on farms January 1 totaled 336 million bushels. This compares with 327 million year ago and 368 million 10-year average. Disappearance from farms October-December amounted to 148 million bushels, up from the 145 million for the same period a year ago and the 141 million average. Total movement of wheat from farms since harvest—about 759 million bushels—is the smallest in the last 7 years of billion-bushel wheat crops.

Corn On Farms, 2.2 Billion Bushels

Corn stocks on farms totaled 2.2 billion bushels on January 1, compared with 2.4 billion year ago and 2 billion average. Current stocks are 76 percent of the 1950 production, same as average and nearly same as year ago. Disappearance from farms October through December amounted to 1.2 billion bushels. This compares with 1.4 billion for these three months in '49. Average disappearance for the same period has been less than a billion (967 million bushels).

Other Grain Stocks on Farms January 1

Oats on farms, 907.7 million bushels. Year ago, 824.5 million. Average, 799.1 million. Disappearance from farms last 3 months, 261 million bushels.

Barley, 139.3 million bushels. Year ago, 106.5 million. Average, 153.1 million. Disappearance from farms last 3 months 41 million bushels.

Rye, 7.3 million bushels. Year ago, 4.8 million. Average, 14.8 million. Disappearance from farms last 3 months, 5.6 million bushels.

Soybeans, 97.7 million bushels. Year ago, 60.9 million. Average, 56.4 million. Disappearance from farms last 3 months, 191 million bushels, highest of record.

Record Hay Supplies

The hay supply per roughage consuming animal is the largest of record. Stocks on farms total 72.7 million tons. This compares with 69.3 million tons year ago and the 10-year average of 69.5 million tons.

Flaxseed Acreage Down From Last Year

Flaxseed acreage in 3 States is estimated at 212 thousand acres, nearly a third less than was planted for harvest in 1950. Acreages by States, this year and last, are: Texas, 145,000 and 223,000; Arizona, 4,000 and 14,000; California, 63,000 and 60,000.

Orange Estimate Up From Last Year

Oranges and tangerines, 1950-51 season, are expected to total 110.6 million boxes compared with 108.5 million last season and 99.7 million boxes 10-year average.

More Grapefruit Than Last Year, But Below Average

Grapefruit production is estimated at 47.5 million boxes, compared with 36.5 million last year and 50.7 million 10-year average.

Million Boxes More Lemons Than Last Year

Lemons are expected to total 12.5 million boxes this season. Production last year was 11.4 million; 10-year average, 13 million boxes.

Winter Truck More Plentiful Than Average

Truck crops this winter are expected to be available in larger than average quantities, though the tonnage may be down a little from last winter. Yield prospects are down from last year with acreage nearly the same. Crops larger than last year are artichokes, snap beans, escarole, green peas, lettuce and spinach. Big decrease in cabbage. Sharp declines in celery, tomatoes, and carrots. Relatively smaller crops than last year also of lima beans, beets, cucumbers, egg plant and green peppers for this winter market.

Milk Production Last Month Near Record

The 8.5 billion pounds of milk produced in December was close to the record production for the month reached in December, 1949. Daily milk production per capita in December averaged 1.79 pounds, slightly higher than in December, 1947, but otherwise lowest for the month in 21 years.

Milk Produced in 1950 Also Near Record

The 120.5 billion pounds of milk produced in 1950 compares with 119.1 billion pounds produced in 1949 and the 10-year average of 116.2 billion pounds. Total 1950 production was second only to the high record reached in 1945.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Nov. 15 1950	Dec. 15 1950	Dec. 15 1950
Wheat, bu.dol.	1.94	2.03	2.31
Corn, bu.dol.	1.37	1.45	1.68
Peanuts, lb.ct.	11.0	10.9	12.5
Cotton, lb.ct.	41.13	40.36	32.36
Potatoes, bu.dol.	.878	.889	1.83
Hogs, 100 lb.dol.	17.80	17.70	19.90
Beef cattle, 100 lb.dol.	25.00	25.40	18.00
Veal calves, 100 lb.dol.	28.20	28.90	20.20
Lambs, 100 lb.dol.	26.70	27.40	19.80
Butterfat, lb.ct.	1/ 59.8	1/ 59.2	73.4
Milk, whsle., 100 lb.dol.	1/ 4.03	1/2/ 4.07	4.58
Chickens, live, lb.ct.	22.6	22.3	30.2
Eggs, doz.ct.	1/ 39.3	1/ 50.6	53.3

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Preliminary.

Egg Production Down in December

Egg production in December, both total and per layer, was lower than in December 1949. The 4.3 billion eggs produced in December compares with 4.5 billion a year earlier and 3.2 billion 10-year average.

For the Full Year, Hens Break Record

Egg production in 1950 reached 59.4 billion eggs, an all-time record. The total in 1949 was 56.4 billion; average, 50.4 billion eggs. Hens averaged 167 eggs per layer in 1950; 10-year average, 147.

Fewer Layers Than a Year Ago

The 390.4 million layers on farms in December was 3 percent less than in December 1949 but 1 percent above average. Potential layers (including all pullets) totaled 423.1 million January 1, down 4 percent from year earlier and 5 percent below the average.

Hatchery Production Up

The 65.8 million chicks hatched in December topped hatchings a year earlier by 19 percent; topped the 1944-48 average by 65 percent. Eggs in incubators indicate another increase in January. January hatch to be up 20 percent from year ago. 1950 output totaled more than 1½ billion chicks, third largest of record.

Egg Prices Still Higher Than Year Ago

Farmers averaged 57.7 cents dozen for eggs mid-December; 40.5 cents year earlier. Prices advanced sharply early in the month, reaching the highest point in 30 years; broke sharply later, continued downward to the end of the month.

Feeding Less Favorable Than Year Ago

Chicken- and turkey-feed price relationships continued less favorable than a year earlier. Due to sharp increases in December egg prices, the egg-feed price relationship was more favorable than a year earlier. Poultry feed averaged \$3.74 per 100 lbs. compared to \$3.63 in November and \$3.38 in December 1949.

Moderate Seasonal Decline in Meat Supplies

Only a moderate decrease in livestock slaughter supplies is expected as peak marketing season passes. Meat per civilian consumer may be almost as large this January-March as a year ago. Some rise in meat prices, however, is expected, due largely to increased demand.

More Pigs Than Year Ago

Fall pig crop, 40.7 million head was up 9 percent from the '49 fall crop and farrowings this spring are expected to be up 4 percent from last spring. Spring crop may total 63.5 million pigs compared with 60 million year ago.

Prices Received Up 4 Percent From November

Prices received by farmers rose 10 index points, or about 4 percent, from mid-November to mid-December. The index, at 286 percent of its 1910-14 average, is highest since September 1948 and is up from December year ago by 23 percent. Index is still 20 points below the record level of January 1948. Increases during the past month are noted for eggs, wheat, corn, soybeans, flaxseed, cottonseed, wool and most other agricultural commodities except cotton.

Prices Paid At All-Time High

Index of prices paid by farmers (including interest, taxes, and farm wage rates) rose 2 points to an all-time high of 265. Prices were higher at mid-December than a month earlier for feeder livestock, feed, and some family living items.

Price-Level Increases Since June

Increases since June amount to 16 percent in prices received by farmers, and 4 percent in prices paid (including interest, taxes, and farm wage rates).

No Rise in Cotton, Price Already Up

Although cotton was one commodity which did not show a price advance during the past month, cotton prices were already 28 percent above parity at mid-November. By November 22, Middling 15/16 inch cotton had reached nearly 44 cents per pound, highest of record.

Record Business Activity Ahead

Industrial activities continue at high levels accompanied by strong demand for goods and services. Retail sales have tapered off from the "scare buying" levels of last summer but are well above levels of a year earlier. Business outlays in new plant and equipment first quarter of 1951 are expected to break all records for the quarter . . . Volume for the whole year may top last year by nearly a fifth . . . Tight manpower and material situations, limiting factors.

Farmers' Cash Receipts Nearly \$28 Billion

Farmers' cash receipts from marketings in 1950 were close to 28 billion dollars if we add the \$25.3 billion in receipts tabulated for the first 11 months to the \$2.6 billion estimated tentatively for December. Total in 1949 was \$28.1 billion.

Farm Wage Rates Up 7 Percent

Farm wage rates are higher by 7 percent than a year ago and slightly higher than the previous high reached in October, 1948. Composite rate, January 1, nearly 63 cents per hour, nearly 59 cents year ago. Per month, with house, \$127; with board and room \$105. These rates compare with \$118 and \$96 a year ago.

Farm Employment Down From Year Ago

The 6.7 million persons at work on farms in late December was 6 percent less than a year earlier. Total was made up of 5,857,000 farm family workers and 885,000 hired workers, compared with 6,197,000 and 953,000 a year earlier. The farm employment total in December is down seasonally from November by 2.2 million.

Total Employment Down From Last Month

U. S. civilian employment totaled 60.3 million in December, down 1 million from November but up from December 1949 by 1.7 million workers. Large seasonal decline in the number of farm workers affects the total for December.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	December 1950
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	286
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	265
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	108
Wholesale prices of food.....	'10-14=100	1/ 280
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	2/ 270
Farm wage rates.....	'10-14=100	3/ 450
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	2/ 541
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Dec. 1949	Jan.-Dec. 1950
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	119.1	120.5
Eggs, (bil.).....	56.4	59.4
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	4/ 6442	4/ 6448
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4/ 487	4/ 492
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	4/ 8783	4/ 9282
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	4/ 16397	4/ 16842

1/ Week ended nearest 15th of the month.

2/ November figure.

3/ January 1 adjusted for seasonal variation.

4/ January to November under Federal inspection.